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Putting the eggs in the bag, I lowered it by a string to the ground. Once in my descent I slipped but saved myself by catching on a limb, and without further accident reached the ground. The eggs were pale white in color, measuring  $3 \times 2.52$ ;  $3.02 \times 2.51$  and  $3.05 \times 2.54$ . Date, Feb. 19, '81. Next day I bid my colored friends a tearful (?) farewell and was soon home again after having a delightful recreation of four weeks. [B. S. O.]

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## THE CARDINAL GROSBEAK.

*Cardinalis virginianus.*

BY PROF. J. A. SINGLEY, GIDDINGS, TEXAS.

This is our most common species, resident, and found everywhere, even in the scattered clumps of timber on the prairies. It prefers the bottoms however, and 75 per cent. of the individuals will be found there. During the winter it is reinforced by the migrants from further north and the bottoms are fairly alive with the Cardinals. It cannot be called a noisy bird only in the breeding season, when its musical whistle is heard from every clump of shrubbery. The adult male is a rich red color on the back; wings and tail slightly mixed with grayish—a black mask entirely surrounding the bill. Length, 8.00-9.00 in.; extent, 11.00-12.00 inches. The female is of an ashy-brown color, paler and yellowish below; the crest reddish and bill red same as that of the male. Average size, a little less than the male. Specimens taken here are not strictly typical, as they merge into the sub-species *Cardinalis virginianus igneus* of the Mexican border. There is less variation in the nests of this bird than of any other species with which I am acquainted, and the greatest variation in the eggs.

Nesting usually commences early in April, sometimes in the latter part of March, and continues until August; two if not three broods being reared. The nest is always started with twigs or brambles, then a few pliant weed stems and strips of grape-vine bark are added; on this a number of dead leaves, and finally finished and lined with fine grass. It is placed anywhere from a bush a foot high up to twenty feet in a tree (seldom up to that height.)

The eggs number three or four, seldom two, and vary in number in

different seasons, as at times it is difficult to find a full set of three eggs ; at others three eggs is the rule and four the exception. The eggs are white, sometimes thickly marked with brown ; in others the markings are of a lavender tint ; again eggs are found where the brown or lavender markings almost conceal the ground color, and others where the markings are few, of a reddish-brown color, resembling some eggs of the Meadow Lark. Again some eggs are of a greenish tint, the markings of a slate color and the egg bearing a close resemblance to that of the Nighthawk. It is impossible to describe all the variations. Some of the eggs cannot be differentiated from those of the Texan Cardinal. Average, 1.05x.79 inches.

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## AMONG THE RAPTORES.

BY DR. W. S. STRODE, BERNADOTTE, ILL.

On the afternoon of March 22nd, 1887, I had a collecting experience, the pleasure of which will not soon fade from my memory. Having a professional call to make to see a family residing three miles west of the village of Bernadotte, I thought it a good time while in this section of the country, to take a look for the eggs of the Raptors, there being here a large tract of woodland, jutting out into the surrounding prairies, that had escaped the woodman's axe.

Strapping on my climbers, and putting a ball of stout string in my pocket, I mounted my horse and started, making my visit. I then turned my attention to looking for nests.

Away across the fields to the south of the highway, a quarter of a mile, in an eighty-acre tract of timber, I could see in the top of a tree, a large, bulky nest of some kind. Leveling a good opera-glass at the structure, it became very plain to me as the nest of a Hawk, and I even fancied I could see the head and tail of the bird above the edge of the nest.

Going through a gate into the field that intervened, I rapidly rode to within a short distance of the tree in which the nest was situated. Tying my horse to a fence, I went over, and throwing a club into the tree, the Hawk left the nest ; but kept sailing around in near proximity to it. The bird, I soon discovered, was not a Red-tail, our most